

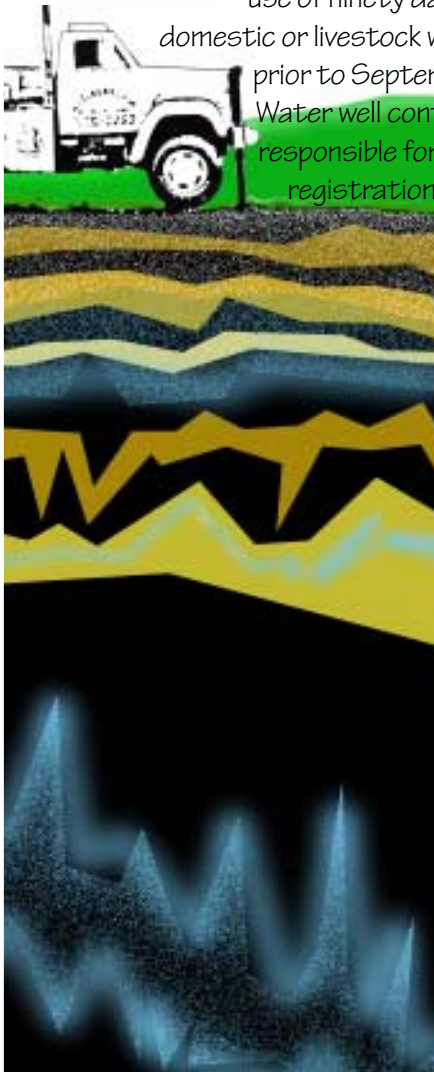
# Why Register Wells?



## Statutory

Current Nebraska law **requires that all water wells must be registered** with the State. Exceptions to the law include test holes in existence for ten days or less, dewatering wells with intended use of ninety days or less, domestic or livestock wells completed prior to September 9, 1993.

Water well contractors are now responsible for filing the well registration for newly constructed water wells with the **Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** within 60 days of well completion. Well owners are responsible for registering existing wells which have not been previously registered. Forms are available at DNR's offices or website. Failure to register a water well is a Class IV misdemeanor.



## Personal Benefits

### Spacing Protection-

New irrigation wells must be drilled at least 600 feet from any **existing registered** irrigation well under separate ownership. Industrial and certain public water supply wells must be drilled at least 1000 feet from any **registered** existing irrigation well. Even stricter spacing requirements may apply within groundwater management areas.



### Public Record-

Water well information, well drillers logs, and registrations are updated daily, recorded and retained at DNR and may be accessed by anyone wishing the information. Well drillers logs contain not only water well location information but also include depth and thickness of identified deposits drilled. Therefore, if you need information concerning the construction of your properly registered water well and cannot locate the information in your records, that information, if registered, is available to you through DNR. The information can be obtained online at <http://dnrserver26.dnr.state.ne.us/wells/wellsindex.asp>.

## Public Benefits

### Research-

Much of the information concerning the state's underground layers of materials and deposits has been obtained from the information recorded during drilling and the water well registration process. This recorded information may be used by water well contractors when trying to locate water and/or other water wells in nearby areas. The recorded well information is also often used by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHSS) and the Department of Environmental Quality in their programs and work. This wealth of useful information is available to anyone.



*Nebraska had over 120,000 active registered wells as of January 1, 2002*

## Administration-

Natural resources districts (NRDs) also use the ground water well registration information in their decision-making process concerning the need for ground water management areas when declines and shortages of ground water occur in their area. Additional state and federal agencies may also use this information regarding their studies dealing with both water quality and quantity issues. Certain state compacts or agreements concerning the administration of surface water



between Nebraska and its neighboring states require information on water wells and ground water use that can also be obtained from the recorded ground water well registration information. If you have a need

for this type of information and can't find the needed information online, please contact the Water Administration Division of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

The electronic address for searching for well registration information is:

<http://dnrserver26.dnr.state.ne.us/wells/wellsindex.asp>

**Nebraska**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**301 Centennial Mall South**  
**P.O. Box 94676**  
**Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4676**  
**Phone 402-471-2363**  
**Fax 402-471-2900**

## Well Registration Updates

Written notice must be provided to DNR for change of ownership, correction of registration information, modifications of a registered well, and for abandonment of all wells.

DNR collects registration fees based on the use and pumping rate of wells. The fees received for well registrations are divided between the DNR and Health and Human Services. DNR's portion of the registration fee is used for cost-share programs for decommissioning water wells and is available through Nebraska's NRDs. HHSS's portion is used in administering and carrying out the purposes of the Water Well Standards and Contractor's Licensing Act.

Forms for reporting all the above updates are available at:

<http://www.nrc.state.ne.us/docs/wellforms.html>

and DNR's Field Offices located at:

**Norfolk Field Office**  
601 East Benjamin Ave., Suite 101  
Norfolk, Nebraska 68701  
Phone: 402-370 3377  
Fax: 402-371-0653

**Ord Field Office**  
North Highway 11  
P.O. Box 251  
Ord, Nebraska 68862  
Phone: 308-728-3325  
Fax: 308-728-9969

**Bridgeport Field Office**  
729 Main Street  
P.O. Box 787  
Bridgeport, Nebraska 69336-0787  
Phone: 308-262-1930  
Fax: 308-262-1939

**Cambridge Field Office**  
622 Patterson  
P.O. Box 426  
Cambridge, Nebraska 69022  
Phone: 308-697-3730  
Fax: 308-697-3200

**Lincoln Field Office**  
301 Centennial Mall South  
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